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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 58

43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1997

INTRODUCED BY

TIMOTHY Z. JENNINGS

A JOINT MEMORIAL

**REQUESTING THAT NEW MEXICO'S MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES REVIEW
POLITICAL CAMPAIGN PRACTICES AND CONSIDER CREATING A JOINT
COMMISSION OR OTHER OVERSIGHT MECHANISM TO VOLUNTARILY REGULATE
MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY CANDIDATES AND TO DISCOURAGE NEGATIVE
CAMPAIGN PRACTICES.**

**WHEREAS, electoral campaigns in New Mexico and throughout
the nation have been subjected to unacceptable levels of
negativism, attack advertising and other practices that demean
representative democracy; and**

**WHEREAS, negative campaigns are directly related to
cynicism, alienation and low participation rates among New
Mexico voters; and**

**WHEREAS, political candidates and the parties they
represent should be responsible for fair and ethical practices**

Underscored material = new
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1 by or on behalf of their campaigns; and

2 WHEREAS, New Mexico's major political parties are in an
3 excellent position to create an independent process to oversee
4 and voluntarily regulate campaign practices of the parties and
5 party candidates; and

6 WHEREAS, such a review process could involve a mechanism
7 made up of representatives from the major political parties; and

8 WHEREAS, such a review process should result in a code of
9 conduct to outline acceptable standards of fairness, honesty and
10 responsibility for candidates; and

11 WHEREAS, all political parties and their candidates should
12 be requested and encouraged to sign and adhere to such a
13 campaign practices code of conduct; and

14 WHEREAS, the major political parties should encourage
15 voluntary compliance with the provisions of a code of conduct by
16 withholding party funding if it is determined, by a jointly
17 established review mechanism, that the letter or the spirit of a
18 provision of the code was violated; and

19 WHEREAS, an established mechanism could also operate as a
20 filter to review and reduce negative, misleading or unethical
21 campaign advertising by reviewing campaign literature or
22 advertisements submitted voluntarily by candidates or
23 organizations, especially those distributed during the last two
24 weeks of a campaign, prior to their release to the public;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE

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1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the major political parties in New
2 Mexico be requested and strongly urged to review options,
3 including the possible establishment of an independent campaign
4 practices commission, to voluntarily regulate campaign
5 practices, literature and advertisements in New Mexico political
6 campaigns; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the major political parties or
8 a joint campaign practices commission or other oversight body
9 should develop and disseminate a code of conduct for New Mexico
10 political candidates, and request that each major political
11 party and political candidate sign and abide by that code of
12 conduct; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the major political parties or
14 any joint campaign practices commission or other oversight body
15 that is created should hold frequent meetings during political
16 campaigns to review the campaign practices of candidates who
17 have signed a code of conduct; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the major political parties
19 consider among the incentives they create for adhering to a
20 campaign practices code of conduct the withdrawal of party
21 funding for candidates who violate the code; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be sent
23 to the chairpersons of each of New Mexico's major political
24 parties.
25

1 FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

2 FIRST SESSION, 1997

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6 March 16, 1997

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8 Mr. President:

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10 Your PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, to whom has been
11 referred

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13 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 58

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15 has had it under consideration and reports same with
16 recommendation that it DO PASS.

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19 Respectfully submitted,

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23 _____
24 Shannon Robinson, Chairman
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Adopted _____ Not Adopted _____
(Chief Clerk) (Chief Clerk)

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Date _____

The roll call vote was 6 For 0 Against

Yes: 6

No: 0

Excused: Adair, Boitano, Vernon

Absent: None

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State of New Mexico
House of Representatives

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4 **FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE**
5 **FIRST SESSION, 1997**
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9 **March 20, 1997**

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11 **Mr. Speaker:**

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13 **Your VOTERS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE, to whom has**
14 **been referred**

15
16 **SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 58**

17 **has had it under consideration and reports same with**
18 **recommendation that it DO PASS.**

19
20 **Respectfully submitted,**

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24 _____
25 **Edward C. Sandoval, Chairman**

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1997

HVEC/SJM58

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Adopted _____ Not Adopted _____
(Chief Clerk) (Chief Clerk)

Date _____

The roll call vote was 7 For 0 Against

Yes: 7

Excused: Buffett, Lujan, Madalena, Nicely, Sanchez

Absent: None

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